



**Judicial Council of California**  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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RONALD M. GEORGE  
*Chief Justice of California*  
*Chair of the Judicial Council*

WILLIAM C. VICKREY  
*Administrative Director of the Courts*

RONALD G. OVERHOLT  
*Chief Deputy Director*

April 25, 2007

Dear California Teacher:

The judicial branch of California endeavors to increase public understanding of the courts and the role that courts play in a democratic society. Local superior courts, appellate courts, and the state Supreme Court participate in numerous outreach and education programs that bring groups of citizens and students to the courts. We also impart Web site and written information about the courts and provide volunteers and staff for self-help centers in courthouses, in addition to other efforts to engage the public.

Despite the diligent efforts of schools and our courts, scientific research about perceptions of our courts has shown that public knowledge about the judicial branch of government generally, and about our courts in particular, needs improvement. As part of our overall approach to improve citizen knowledge, court staff are working in collaboration with California State University San Marcos, College of Education to offer an in-depth training institute this summer for interested California K–12 teachers.

The purpose of this training is to:

- Review the current K–12 curriculum standards related to civics education;
- Increase knowledge of the role of courts and the operations of courts;
- Experience models of existing K–12 court and law-related education programs, including a visit to the local courthouse and meeting with judges;
- Refresh knowledge of principles of effective lesson plan design and impact evaluation;
- Learn about exciting ways to use technology in teaching about civics;
- Prepare unique lesson plans to use in participants' classrooms, tailored to individual classrooms and communities; and
- Report back to institute leaders and participants at a later date after implementation and evaluation of the lesson plan.

California K-12 Teachers Interested in Civics

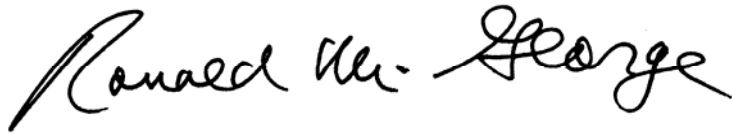
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I invite you to apply for this competitive selection process to become a 2007 institute participant. The specific application information is attached.

Thank you for the important work you do serving your students and communities throughout California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald M. George". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ronald" being the most prominent.

RONALD M. GEORGE  
Chief Justice of California and  
Chair of the Judicial Council

RMG/DB/JL/cp  
Attachment